AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A temporary absorbable venous occlusive stent, comprising:

a stent body having a proximal portion and a distal portion;

a bio-absorbable material associated with said stent body; and

means for blocking blood flow past said stent when implanted in a vein, at least a portion of said means disposed at the proximal portion, the distal portion, or at a location between the proximal portion and the distal portion.

2. (Original) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said stent body is generally tubular.

3. (Original) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said stent body is generally cylindrical.

4. (Original) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said bio-absorbable material is provided by a material used to form said stent body.

5. (Original) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said bio-absorbable material comprises polylactic acid.

6. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said means comprises a drawstring closure system at one end of said stent body.

7. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said means comprises a drawstring closure system having a pair of drawstring ends.

8. (Withdrawn) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said closure means comprises a closed end wall associated with said body.

9. (Withdrawn) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said closure means comprises a closed end wall mounted on said body.

10. (Withdrawn) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said closure means is provided by said stent body having a generally solid interior portion.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for treating a varicose vein, comprising:

introducing a temporary absorbable venous occlusive stent to an implantation site proximate to or above a varicose vein to be treated, said stent comprising:

a stent body;

a bio-absorbable material associated with said body; and

closure means for blocking blood flow past said stent when implanted in a vein;

deploying said stent against a vein wall at said implantation site so as to block blood flow past said stent; and

allowing said stent to form a blockage at said implantation site as said stent is absorbed.

12. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is introduced via a deep venous system approach.

13. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is introduced via cephalic vein approach.

14. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is introduced via a superficial venous system approach.

15. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is introduced via a sheath introducer.

16. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is introduced via a sheath introducer and a guide wire.

17. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is introduced by way of magnetic guidance.

18. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is deployed using a balloon catheter.

19. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is deployed using a balloon catheter and manipulation of said closure means.

20. (Currently Amended) A temporary absorbable venous occlusive stent, comprising:

a stent body comprising a bio-absorbable material; and

an adjustable closure device associated with said stent body, said adjustable closure device comprising:

an open configuration in which said closure device permits blood flow past said stent body; and

a blocking configuration in which said closure device forms a wall that blocks blood flow past said stent body.

21. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 20 wherein said stent body is generally tubular.

22. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 20 wherein said stent body is generally cylindrical.

23. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 20 wherein said bio-absorbable material is provided by a material used to form said stent body.

24. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 20 wherein said bio-absorbable material comprises polylactic acid.

25. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 20 wherein said closure device comprises a drawstring closure system at one end of said stent body.

26. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 20 wherein said closure device comprises a drawstring closure system having a pair of drawstring ends.

27. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 20 wherein said closure device in the blocking configuration blocks blood flow sufficiently to induce clotting and fibrosis.

28. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said means blocks blood flow to a degree sufficient to induce clotting and fibrosis at an implantation site of said stent body.

29. (New) A temporary absorbable stent for substantially completely occluding a vein, comprising:

a bioabsorbable stent body having a proximal end and a distal end and a lumen therebetween;

a non-filtering, continuous side wall defining the lumen of the body and substantially conformable to the wall of the vein to substantially completely block the flow of blood through the side wall and into the lumen; and

a non-filtering blocking wall disposed on the body at either the proximal end or the distal end of the body, or at a location therebetween, to substantially completely block the flow of blood through the lumen.

30. (New) A stent in accordance with claim 29 wherein said bio-absorbable stent body comprises polylactic acid.

31. (New) A stent in accordance with claim 29 wherein said non-filtering blocking wall is adjustable between a blocking configuration and a non-blocking configuration.

32. (New) A stent in accordance with claim 29 wherein said non-filtering blocking wall comprises a drawstring closure system.

33. (New) A stent in accordance with claim 29 wherein said non-filtering blocking wall is disposed at the proximal end of the body.

34. (New) A stent in accordance with claim 29 wherein said non-filtering blocking wall is disposed at the distal end of the body.

35. (New) A stent in accordance with claim 29 wherein said non-filtering blocking wall is disposed between the proximal end and the distal end of the body.

36. (New) A stent in accordance with claim 29 wherein said non-filtering blocking wall blocks blood flow sufficiently to induce clotting and fibrosis.

37. (New) A temporary absorbable stent for substantially completely occluding a vein, comprising:

a body having a side wall comprising a bio-absorbable material, the side wall having a having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the side wall defining a lumen extending between the proximal portion and the distal portion, the side wall being substantially conformable to a vein wall; and

an adjustable blocking wall coupled with the side wall and configurable to block blood flow to a degree sufficient to induce clotting and fibrosis at an implantation site of the body.

38. (New) A stent in accordance with claim 37 wherein said bio-absorbable material comprises polylactic acid.

39. (New) A stent in accordance with claim 37 wherein said adjustable blocking wall is adjustable between a blocking configuration and a non-blocking configuration.

40. (New) A stent in accordance with claim 37 wherein said adjustable blocking wall comprises a drawstring closure system.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of granting the interview in the present case. A summary of the interview conducted with the Examiner on November 4, 2005 is included below.

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

No exhibits were shown. No demonstrations were conducted.

Identification of Claims Discussed

Claims 1, 20, and a proposed claim were discussed.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

The Hyodoh reference, U.S. Pat App. Pub. No. 2003/0040771A1, published February 27, 2003 was discussed. Additionally, the Examiner provided Applicant with copies of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,382,261 to Palmaz, and 6,096,052 to Callister et al, which are included in an Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith.

Results of Interview

Agreement was reached that the proposed claim amendments discussed during the interview overcome the rejection under Hyodoh, though the Examiner indicated that a further search and consideration of the prior art would be conducted.